

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS:

President Ford
Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
and Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant
to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME:

Friday, January 17, 1975
9:35 - 10:30 a.m.

DOS, OSD REVIEWS
COMPLETED.

PLACE:

The Oval Office

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Kissinger: I think we have to sell a little more the purpose of your program. More conceptual.

The President: I am talking at 11:00 to the Cabinet; to Governors and Mayors at 2:00; and I'm having lunch with Sulzberger.

Now the Democrats are dragging their feet. They're thinking of barring the import restrictions. If they are going to be negative, I think we will be in good shape because we have a tough positive program.

25X1

Kissinger:

25X1

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

CLASSIFIED BY Henry A. Kissinger
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5(b)(3)
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to Det.

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS

2

I get the impression from Dobrynin that they are anxious to keep detente on course. I said I could send Robinson to Moscow to talk about what we could do at the summit to present to the Congress. I said, why couldn't we agree on a small MBFR cut for the summit? He said, why couldn't we cancel Trident and they would cancel something? I said not the Trident but to propose something else.

He said they fear the U.S. is too weak to do business with. Brezhnev is having a Party Congress this spring. If we have more setbacks by then it will really be bad. I said we were in better shape -- you now had your house in order, you were tough, and you now had a Vice President. I told him to keep up the press pressure for a while.

On the Middle East, they have given up on Egypt. They now are worried about Syria. When I think what we could do if Israel would cooperate . . . Maybe we need a letter to Brezhnev on the Middle East.

All in all, it was a very encouraging talk. He said their decision to open up Siberia was a major one.

On Allon, I told him they had to move -- there was no choice. His problem is how to present it in Israel so it does not look like surrender. He said it would help if we could reconfirm what we have already promised. I think we can we'll deliver what we promised by April 1, and let Schlesinger discuss MATMON-B, but in a dilatory way. I urge you to be a little warmer personally than I had recommended, but be very tough on substance. One has to wonder if modern democracies can survive. They can't make tough decisions without being demagogued to death -- unless something like the Soviet trade bill happens.

I am keeping Allon here so he can't be there on Sunday so we have a week without leaks.

General Scowcroft: [Harsch and Thimmesch articles.]

Kissinger: The new Congressmen were sweet as pie yesterday, not at all belligerent.

SECRET/NODIS/XGDS